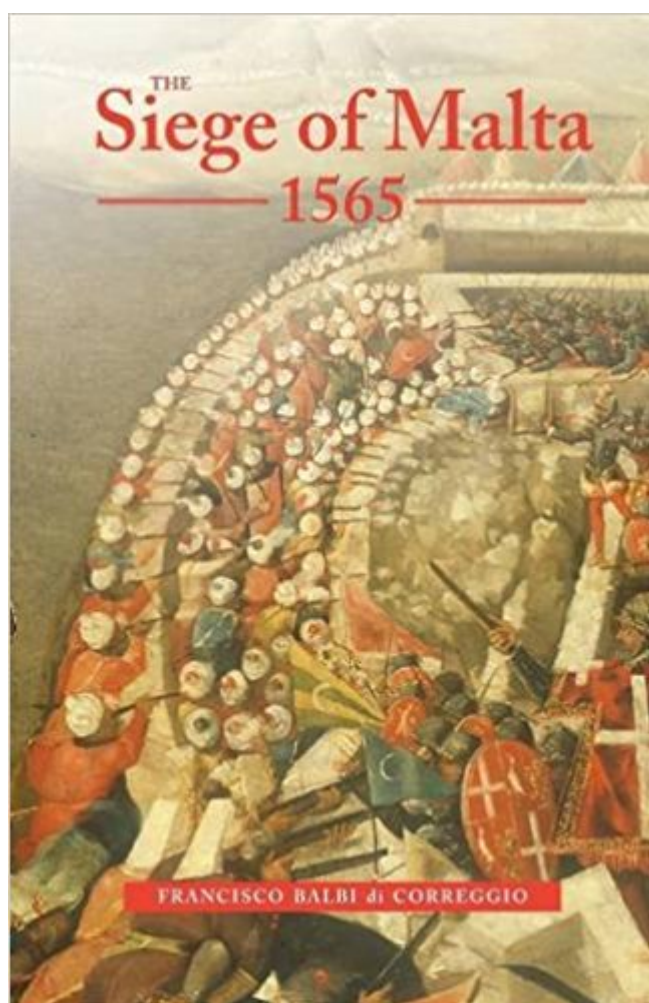


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# The Siege Of Malta, 1565: Translated From The Spanish Edition Of 1568 (First Person Singular)



## Synopsis

This is the history of one of the great battles of the world, written by a private soldier who was an eye-witness. The siege of Malta was a crucial moment in the long struggle between Islam and Christendom for domination of the Mediterranean, fought out by unequal forces on the small island which commands the sea-routes at the centre of that sea. The Knights of St John were a survival from the medieval world, the largest of the surviving crusading orders, and they had been driven out of their base on Rhodes in the eastern Mediterranean after a great onslaught by the Turks in 1522. Now, forty-three years later, the Turkish ruler, Suleyman the Magnificent, who had been the victor at Rhodes, was determined to finish them off. He sent out a huge armada, carrying the pick of his army, under two commanders. Against this powerful force, the Knights could only raise a handful of men and mercenaries, and had to depend on the fortifications they had raised in the thirty-five years since they first came to Malta, which bore no comparison to the massive walls and ditches on Rhodes. Francisco Balbi di Correggio was a humble soldier of fortune who enlisted under the charismatic command of the Grand Master of the Order, Jean de la Valette. The extraordinary drama that unfolded after the first appearance of the Turkish fleet in the summer of 1565 is told in his own words, giving equal credit to the courage and leadership of the Knights and the grim determination of the ordinary people of Malta.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a carefully-presented, well-translated and well-edited book, with an excellent commentary to

accompany the original source documents. (...) Thanks are due to Boydell Press for making this serious academic publication available. BRITISH BULLETIN OF PUBLICATIONS Will serve as a useful primary source for undergraduates and as well as for scholars. SIXTEENTH CENTURY JOURNAL An extremely welcome reprint...of a seminal work on the subject and the prime reference source for all those who have written about the 1565 siege. An extremely readable account.

## CASEMATE

This is a gripping account of the struggle for Malta in 1565 between the Knights of St. John and the forces of Suleiman. Being written in the first person singular by a participant in the action it is an amazing story. Once you commence reading it, it is almost impossible to put it down. The translation by Ernle Bradford is excellent. I highly recommend this for anyone interested in the Knights of St. John, the history of Malta or military strategy in general.

Unmissable narrative for the historian of the late medieval/ early modern period

Really enjoyed this book. Learned a lot.

I love reading Historical's, saw this and just had to snap it up. Read it from cover to cover in just a week. With the Translators additions it makes it even better.

This book is pretty damn awesome.

In 1565 Suleiman the Magnificent sent 40,000 men to lay siege to the tiny island of Malta and its small garrison of 500 knights and a few thousand men-at-arms. Malta was the home to the Knights Hospitallers, the order of Christian warrior-monks who had been fighting against the forces of Islam since the Crusades. This is a first person account of the siege of Malta in 1565 by a Spanish arquebuser who served with the Knights of St. John during the siege. Excellent primary source history and a thrilling story. A must read for serious students of history.

The defense of Malta in 1565 is every bit as impressive as Thermopylae, and in this book it is the recorded journal of a Spanish gunner that was in one of the fortresses on the tiny island that defeated Suleiman's best troops for over 3 months. Like any primary source, there is much to be considered for its accuracy, but it has a great deal of valuable information and where else can you

get a 440+ year old eye witness account of an amazing battle for under \$20?

This is a great source for first-hand information on the Siege of Malta. I am getting a great deal of useful information from it already.

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